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What is claimed is:

1. A method of presenting an execution plan for a query, comprising:
determining steps of the query execution plan in a parallel database
system;
displaying the steps of the query execution plan in a graphical user
interface; and
depicting parallel execution of steps of the query execution plan in the
graphical user interface.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps comprises
determining steps of the query execution plan in the parallel database system running in a
multiprocessing platform having plural nodes.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps comprises
determining steps of the query execution plan in the parallel database system running in a
platform having plural virtual processors to handle access to data in the parallel database
system.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the steps comprises displaying
the steps as icons.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the database management system is
executable in a platform, and wherein displaying the icons comprises displaying one or
more of the icons selected from the group consisting of an icon representing a table, an
icon representing an operation performed on a component of the platform, an icon
representing a query statement, and icon representing an operation performed on two or
more tables.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps of the query
execution plan is performed by an optimizer.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining the steps of the query execution plan is performed by an optimizer based on emulated environment data of a target system, the optimizer and emulated environment data present in a test system.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the steps of the query
2 execution plan is performed in a test system based on emulated environment data of a
3 target system that is separate from the test system.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying explain text of the query execution plan.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein displaying the explain text comprises
2 displaying the explain text in a first screen, and wherein displaying the steps of the query
3 execution plan comprises displaying the steps in a second screen.

1 11. A method of testing performance of a query, comprising:
2 determining a first execution plan of the query under a first condition;
3 determining a second execution plan of the query under a second
4 condition; and
5 displaying the first and second execution plans concurrently to enable
6 comparison of the execution plans.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the first and second execution
2 plans comprises displaying the execution plans in a graphical user interface.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the first and second execution
2 plans comprises displaying the execution plans in a graphical user interface having a first
3 screen to display the first execution plan and a second screen to display the second
4 execution plan.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein determining the second content contains
2 statistics.

Sub A
1 23. A system comprising:
2 a graphical user interface; and
3 a controller to determine an execution plan of a query based on emulation
4 data that emulates an environment of a target system in which a parallel database system
5 is implemented,
6 the controller displaying a representation of the execution plan in the
7 graphical user interface.

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1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data comprises cost-related
2 information including a number of nodes in the target system and a number of CPUs in
3 each node.

1 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data comprises cost-related
2 information including a number of virtual processors running in the target system.

1 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data comprises cost-related
2 information relating to costs of doing operations in the target system.

1 27. The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data represents a target
2 system having a multi-node parallel processing system.

1 28. The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data represents a target
2 system having a single-node multiprocessing system.

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1 29. The system of claim 23, wherein the emulation data represents a target
2 system running plural virtual processors for handling access to the parallel database
3 system.

